

The paragraph beginning at page 7, please ~~replace~~ the paragraph at lines 15-18 with the following:

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#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

B3 The invention will now be illustrated by way of example only and with reference to the drawings in which Figure 1 represents in schematic form, a cross-section of a fluid bed reactor according to the present invention and Figures 2a, 2b and 2c represent in schematic form, a cross-section of three designs of inlet pipe according to the present invention.

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#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Page 8, please ~~replace~~ the paragraph beginning at line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

B4 Figures 2a, 2b and 2c show in schematic cross-section three designs of inlet pipe according to the present invention and such as are shown in Figure 1. A substantial portion of each inlet pipe (10) within the reactor (1) is surrounded by an outer pipe (3) which is connected to a supply of inert gas (14) such as nitrogen. Each inlet pipe (10) is provided with an orifice plate or restriction (20) to limit the supply of molecular oxygen-containing gas and an orifice fluid bed catalyst. Suitably the orifice plate has more than one orifice, for example 3 orifices in a triangular pitch and provides sufficient back-pressure to suppress ingress of flame, reagents, products and fluid bed catalyst but with an exit linear velocity of gas which would not lead to excessive attrition of the fluid bed catalyst. In one design (Figure 2a), the inlet pipe (10) extends concentrically from the outer pipe (3) by only a short distance. In the second design (Figure 2b) the inlet pipe